

MARSHALL STAR

Serving the Marshall Space Flight Center Community

Dec. 10, 2009

Marshall Center gives back

*CFC to conclude
Dec. 11; volunteer
spirit continues*

By Rick Smith

As the Marshall Space Flight Center prepares to wrap up its annual Combined Federal Campaign fundraiser on Dec. 11, all indications point to another successful year – and a gift-giving goal well within reach.

As of Dec. 8, the Marshall team had pledged more than Combined Federal Campaign donations top \$618,807 – closing in on its 2009 goal of \$625,000 – and pledges and donations continued to pour in through the week.

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Glenn Alexander, a contract specialist in the Office of Procurement, unloads donated cake mixes for Christmas Charities Year Round, a Huntsville-based non-profit group, during a recent Marshall Center Community Service Days event at Redstone Federal Credit Union. Community Service Days are part of Marshall's annual CFC effort.

NASA challenges 350 rocketeers nationwide to aim a mile high

By Rick Smith

More than 350 student rocketeers from middle schools, high schools, colleges and universities – 37 teams representing 21 states – will take part in the 2009-2010 NASA Student Launch Projects.

The annual event combines NASA's Student Launch Initiative for middle school and high school teams and the University Student Launch Initiative for colleges and universities. Students are challenged to build powerful rockets of their own design, complete with a working science payload, and launch them to an altitude of 1 mile.

The Marshall Space Flight Center's Academic Affairs Office, which organizes the event for NASA, hopes the initiatives will inspire students to turn their interests in science, technology, engineering and mathematics into rewarding careers in fields critical to NASA's mission.

This fall, teams began building and field-testing their rockets, grappling with many of the same physics, propulsion and flight challenges faced by professional rocket engineers. The students also challenge themselves as scientists – creating unique, on-board science experiments that must survive the

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Space & Rocket Center closed Mondays, Tuesdays until March 1

As of Nov. 30, the U.S. Space & Rocket Center will be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays until March 1. However, the center will be open Dec. 21-22 and Dec. 28-29.

For more information about the museum or to purchase tickets, please visit <http://www.spacecamp.com/>.

CFC *Continued from page 1*

But it's rarely the act of filling out an online donation form that moves team members the most when they talk about CFC, said Irene Taylor, CFC executive chairperson for the 2009 campaign. It's the hours they volunteered to support Community Service Days, or the bus tours they took to see how CFC funding is put to use by local charitable organizations.

"It catches people by surprise, seeing firsthand the work being done, and lending a hand themselves," she said.

"It drives home the impact of what CFC does."

Patti Hall, an administrative specialist in the Engineering Directorate's Materials & Processes Laboratory and this year's co-chairperson for CFC bus tours, agrees. She began participating in the fundraiser during her previous career – as a solicitor for the U.S. Army on Redstone Arsenal. "Back then, it just seemed the nice thing to do," she recalled.

But over time, she became more familiar with the organizations CFC supports – often through unexpected, unpleasant circumstances. After a coworker died of a heart ailment, Hall began contributing to the American Heart Association. When she was diagnosed in 2004 with thyroid cancer, she investigated cancer research foundations and began directing funds to that cause as well. Then, in September, her oldest daughter gave birth to premature twin boys, and had to spend weeks in the Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit at the Huntsville Hospital for Women & Children. The babies went home in October, Hall said, healthy and "doing great" – and she added a new charity to her CFC list.

Because of her experiences, Hall remains an ardent recruiter for CFC bus tours and Community Service Days. It's critical, she said, "to get out and really see our donations in action. That's when we realize the 'nice thing' we started doing years ago by giving to CFC is still helping those in need today."

Scott Stevens, a UNITEs contractor supporting the

Environmental Engineering & Occupational Health Office, has volunteered since 2007 to paint wheelchair ramps for CASA of Madison County, a non-profit organization that

assists the homebound and the elderly.

He, too, says volunteering adds an extra measure of personal satisfaction to the CFC experience.

"I wanted a project that would directly assist folks," he said. "I enjoy physical labor, because I spend so much time in front of a computer at work. I'm not sure who appreciated it more – the folks with new, non-skid wheelchair ramp surfaces, or me!"

Brooke Boen, a Schafer employee supporting the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications as Webmaster, also encourages taking CFC giving to the next level. Each year, CFC volunteers help to sign up families for the Salvation Army's "Angel Tree" program. This is the ninth consecutive year Boen has organized her office's angel adoptions – arranging for donations of toys, clothes and other items to children and

seniors in need. In 2000, her office adopted a single angel. This year, more than 60 of her office colleagues rallied to adopt 37 angels, ranging in age from nine months to 91 years.

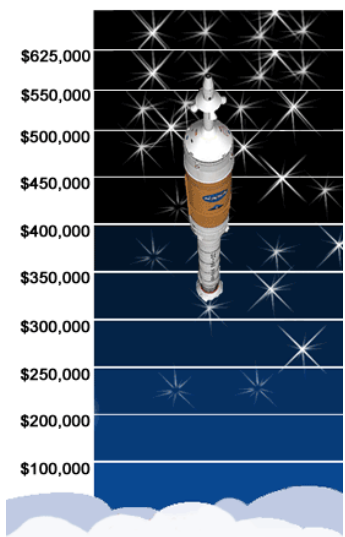
According to Salvation Army organizers, more than 4,400 individuals in need, including children, seniors and the disabled, signed up for the Angel Tree program this year. "The need is greater than ever," Boen said. "It really brings home the holiday spirit to be able to give to others this way."

Stevens concurs, and encourages Marshall team members to extend that service even further – beyond the close of the CFC season. A CASA volunteer throughout the year, he says opportunities to help others abound. He suggests visiting <http://www.volunteerhsv.org> for more information.

"Our community gives a lot," he said. "CFC is a great opportunity to give back."

And for community-minded Marshall team members, it's just the start.

Smith, an AI Signal Research Inc. employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.



As of Dec. 8, the Marshall raised \$618,807 for CFC. The center's goal for the 2009 fundraiser, which ends Dec. 11, is \$625,000.

Students *Continued from page 1*

mile-high flight and yield post-flight test results. In addition, teams create project Web sites; write preliminary and post-launch reports; and develop space-themed projects to inspire younger students in their communities.

The Student Launch Projects will conclude April 15-18, 2010. Teams will gather at the Marshall Center, where NASA engineers will put the students' rockets through a professional design review. Then the students will embark on a two-day "launchfest" at Bragg Farms in Toney, Ala.

"As we head toward another exhilarating launch next April, many of these industrious young people also are headed toward rewarding careers in which they'll lead new journeys of exploration and discovery – not just to Earth's lower troposphere, but to other worlds," said Tammy Rowan, manager of Marshall's Academic Affairs Office.

Student Launch Initiative teams hail from schools in Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin. Middle school and high school teams are eligible to participate in the event for up to two years. Each new team receives a \$3,700 grant and a travel stipend from NASA.



"Frozen Fury," a rocket built by the team from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, was one of 32 student rockets that flew as part of NASA's Student Launch Projects in April 2009.

Each returning team receives a \$2,450 grant.

University Student Launch Initiative teams represent colleges and universities in Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, North Dakota, Tennessee and Texas. College and university teams seek funding from their state's Space Grant Consortium, and are not limited to two years of eligibility. The University Student Launch Initiative is a competitive event sponsored by ATK Space Systems of Magna, Utah, which contributes prizes, including a \$5,000 check for the first-place winner.

The Student Launch Projects are collaboratively sponsored by NASA's Exploration Systems Mission Directorate, Space Operations Mission Directorate and Education Flight Projects. NASA held the first student launch event in 2001.

For more information about the Student Launch Projects and a list of participating schools, visit <http://education.msfc.nasa.gov/sli> and <http://education.msfc.nasa.gov/usli>.

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Classified Ads

To submit a classified ad to the Marshall Star, go to Inside Marshall, to "Employee Resources," and click on "Employee Ads — Submit Ad." Ads are limited to 15 words, including contact numbers. No sales pitches. Deadline for the next issue, Dec. 17, is 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10.

Miscellaneous

Kasson pool table, fruitwood, Queen Anne feet, leather pockets, all accessories, \$2,500. 880-6563

Johnson guitar, \$60; violin in case, \$75; 9-foot Christmas tree, storage bag, lights included, \$45. 722-9989

Sofa and love seat set, tan/cream/light brown stripes, eight pillows, \$600. 337-2534

Pre-lit 9-foot Christmas tree, \$175. 337-7943

Two upholstered swivel chairs, matching ottoman, \$70. 714-4651

PlayStation 3, \$280; inFamous game, \$40; Batman game,

\$40; Batman Blu-Ray movie, \$20. 652-5274

Snapper high-vacuum riding mower, 30-inch cut, needs new 12.5-hp engine, \$100. 325-0085

Rectangular solid mahogany dining room table, chairs, seats up to 10 people, \$1,200. 679-6676

Sofa and loveseat, will e-mail pics with address, \$275. 232-6072

Magic Chef washer and dryer combo, super capacity, heavy duty, \$300 for both. 205-807-7841

Folding wire dog crate, 30Lx21Wx24H inches, for large dog or several small ones, \$40. 777-1810

Disney and Barbie dolls, over 80 in collection, call for list, \$10-\$40 each. 874-6886

Sheared beaver fur car coat, size medium, \$350, aluminum frame 21-speed bicycle, \$150. 536-8951

2009 Journey to the Moon DVD, 3 1/2 hours of footage, \$15. 509-8531

Dining room set, table, six chairs, China cabinet, \$450 obo. 348-1809

Victrola, \$400, Halltree, \$900, secretary, \$250; Queen Anne chair, \$75, cedar lined chest, \$400. 832-969-0447

Vehicles

2009 Blue Toyota Camry, alloy wheels, 16k miles, \$19,900. 205-260-6703

2008 Honda Odyssey EX-L, MP3/multi CD, sunroof, leather, 18k miles, \$26,900. 714-3769

2005 Kawasaki KLX 125CC 4-Stroke, \$1,400. 345-1454

2005 Lexus ES330, silver, leather, \$15,000 obo. 651-8965

2004 Harley Davidson Dyna LowRider, gold/black, removable windshield, sundowner seat with backrest, 3,530 miles, \$8,000. 509-3392

2000 Toyota Sienna minivan, 115k miles, \$4,900. 417-1957

1998 Pontiac Grand Prix, GTP package, black, leather, auto, CD, 179k miles, \$2,950. 684-9545

1993 Lincoln Towncar Signature Series, leather, CD, blue, navy interior, 99k miles, \$3,000. 348-1962

1992 GMC white diesel pickup truck, 150k miles, \$3,500. 379-4010

1985 FORD F-150, 4X4, hunter green, \$2,950. 259-1523

1985 BMW K100RT, \$1,950 obo. 302-6783

Wanted

Electrical work to do, lights, plugs, switches, yard lights, Christmas lights to hang. 468-8906

Wii console, stand and remote. 677-5217

Rock music record albums from the 1960s-90s. 468-8177

City Select North America mapping software to load on Garmin GPS-V receiver. 616-1562

Rowing machine, small compact refrigerator, music stand, 20" girls bike, small bedroom vanity. 682-1083

Free

Kittens, 6 weeks old, male, using litter box. Text 714-3576 or call 325-4003.

The sign says it all



Bill Mayo, left, manager of the NASA Exchange at the Marshall Space Flight Center, welcomes guests to the center's annual holiday reception Dec. 3. The event, held in the Activities Building 4316, drew hundreds of Marshall team members, who enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, live entertainment and fellowship with their co-workers from across the center.

Marshall Association holding toy and membership drive

The Marshall Association is hosting a "Toys for Tots" drive until Dec. 11 in the lobby of Building 4203. The organization also is seeking new members.

Marshall Space Flight Center team members are encouraged to drop by from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to join the Marshall Association, and to donate new, unwrapped gifts for children up to 15 years old.

For additional information, please contact Markeeva Morgan at 544-7299 or Larry Gagliano at 544-7175.



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